

# JACKFISH PROJECT

VOL. 3—WINTER 2005

## GENERAL UPDATE

In our Spring 2004 Jackfish Project Update, Devon reported that we had filed our response to Alberta Environment and the Alberta Energy & Utilities Board's (EUB) Supplemental Information Requests (SIR). A comprehensive review of our response—Volume 4 of the Application—was conducted by the regulators from May through December 2004. On December 22, Devon received approval to proceed with the Jackfish thermal heavy oil project, located 15 km southeast of the Hamlet of Conklin.

“Through the spring and summer, we met with representatives from local communities to review our responses to the SIR, including updated project information,” says Bee Schadeck, Devon's Senior Aboriginal Advisor. “We discussed project timelines and also reviewed the status of the Trades in Motion program. In July, we invited all the residents of Conklin to join us for a BBQ to say thank you for working with us, and to provide an overall update.”



*Bee Schadeck (left) discusses the project's status*

### Trades in Motion

The concept of Trades in Motion, a training initiative that will be delivered by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) and Keyano College, was initially introduced to the Hamlets of Janvier and Conklin and Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation in early 2004. The program will be comprised of personal development skills, academic upgrading to pass Alberta Apprenticeship

Entrance exams, fundamental pre-trade skills, employability skills, and work experience. Occupational skills will be delivered in the areas of electrical, pipefitting, millwright, and welding.

“The philosophy of the program is if the students can't get to the classroom, bring the classroom to the students,” says Bee. “NAIT's mobile education unit, which is a fully equipped trades classroom housed in semi-trailers will be brought directly into the community. NAIT will deliver the trades component of the program, and Keyano will deliver the classroom training.”

Discussions with the program partners, including the Metis Nation of Alberta, the Conklin Community Association, Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation and government are ongoing to finalize a schedule for program funding and delivery.

“Based on the high level of interest expressed in Trades in Motion, it's currently anticipated that the program will be delivered in each of the communities of Conklin and Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation,” explains Bee.



*NAIT trades trailer*

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### INTERESTED IN PURSUING POWER ENGINEERING?

Devon Canada is committed to supporting the communities in which we operate.

A bursary was recently established in Devon's name at Portage College. The award will be given annually to a 4<sup>th</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Class student in the Power Engineering Program. In 2005, the bursary will be awarded to a 4<sup>th</sup> Class student. If the student successfully completes the program (August 2005 to February 2006) and wishes to continue to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Power Engineering, the award will continue. If the student does not wish to continue, the award will be given to a new 4<sup>th</sup> Class entrant.

The bursary will cover tuition, books, supplies and fees up to \$4,000. The award will be given to the student with the greatest financial need currently residing in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Lakeland County, Athabasca County 12, Bonnyville Municipal District 87 or St. Paul County 19.

To be awarded the bursary, the student must first be accepted into the program. For more information on the program, please see [www.portagec.ab.ca](http://www.portagec.ab.ca), and for further details on Devon's bursary, please contact Lise Warawa, Portage College Supervisor of Admissions and Awards at (780) 623-5573.

## GENERAL UPDATE, continued...

“I would like to acknowledge the time and effort of all the parties that have been working to implement this program. They’ve worked very hard to find a balance between government guidelines, educational programming components, producer and contractor requirements, and community needs and expectations.”

The program is tentatively scheduled for delivery in the community of Conklin in late spring/early summer of 2005. Planning with Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation is currently underway.

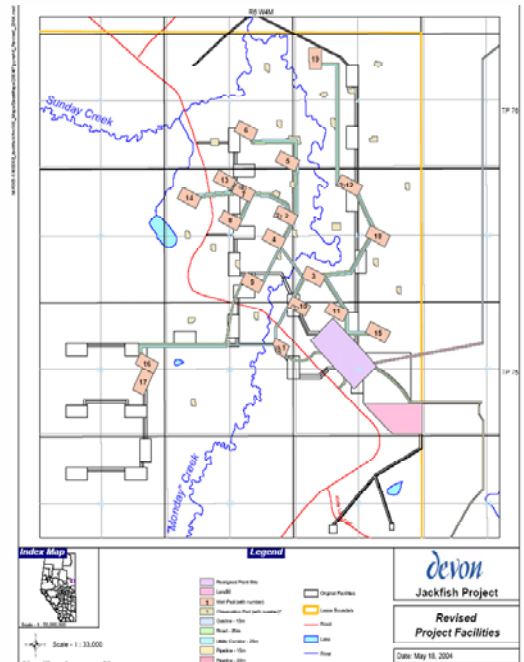
### Plant Layout

Another focal point of the July BBQ/open house was the updated layout of the plant. “A map was posted and used to help explain how revised facility design, resource recovery

data, and environmental data were balanced with established Traditional Knowledge to produce the updated layout,” says Bee.

“Highlights we discussed included a reduced project footprint, a reduction in the number of well pads, and concentration of plant off-site facilities into a smaller area.”

Site clearing for the Central Processing Facility, initial well pads and associated infrastructure for Devon’s 35,000 barrel per day project began in early February. Substantial completion of facilities is targeted for early 2007. Full production for this project, which will use Steam Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD), is scheduled for 2008.



Revised Plant Layout—May 2004

## EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES: WINTER ACTIVITIES

While the Jackfish Project approval has the facilities construction group swinging into full gear, it doesn’t mean Devon’s exploration team gets to take a break.

“We’re very optimistic about the broader development potential of our oil sands leases,” says Brian Harrison, Jackfish Project Manager.

“We are looking at opportunities to complement our Jackfish Project. This winter, bitumen reservoir evaluation and initial environmental data collection is occurring on lands west of the recently approved Jackfish

Project. Wildlife activity and tracking takes place in the winter months when fresh snow fall easily identifies new tracks. In addition, plans are being prepared to conduct

studies over this summer and fall period.”

Evaluating the bitumen reservoirs involves conducting seismic surveys.

The process involves laying sensitive receivers, called geophones, on the ground.

Vibrations are created on the surface, and the geophones record the energy reflected back as seismic waves from rock layers at various depths. This information is used to create a “picture” of the rock layers.

“After we’ve interpreted the seismic data, exploration wells are drilled to confirm assumptions with respect to the specific location of the reserves, as well as the volume and quality,”



Low-Impact Seismic Program Lines—Winter '03/04

says Brian. Seismic line mulching began in early February, and data collection began on February 15 – the program was conducted over a three-week period.

Brian adds that, “In addition to our thermal heavy oil development program, two conventional gas wells are also being drilled north of Conklin this winter, and will be tied-in to the existing infrastructure.



Exploration Well—Winter 2005



Moose spotted south of Conklin—January 2005

# JACKFISH PROJECT GROUND BLESSING CEREMONY

Devon Canada representatives were honoured to participate in a recent ceremony to bless the ground upon which the Jackfish central processing facility will be located.

On February 1, 2005, elders and representatives from the Hamlets of Conklin and Janvier, Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, Heart Lake First Nation, and Metis Nation of Alberta Zone 1

gathered together with Devon personnel at the Nakewin Hall in Conklin. Prior to proceeding to the Jackfish Project site and the location for the Ground Blessing Ceremony, Elder Harry Janvier explained the significance of the ceremony.

“We are all here today to give thanks to Mother Earth,” Harry explained. “We must show respect, because all people need water, air and the earth to live. Without sunshine, or water to nourish the earth, nothing would grow – everything is connected.”

Harry also commented on the beautiful weather that allowed everyone to safely travel to the ceremony, adding that he felt blessed to see representation from so many communities.

The group proceeded to the site, where Harry conducted the ceremony with the assistance of Elders Jean Morris and Edward Adby. Most of Devon’s representatives had never participated in a blessing ceremony, and felt honored to be able to attend.



*Brian Harrison ties ceremonial flag*

“It was a powerful experience,” said Michel Scott, Devon’s Vice President of Government and Public Affairs. “It felt incredible to be standing in the woods, watching and listening to the blessing with the sun shining overhead, and smelling the burning wood and tobacco. The ceremony helped us to appreciate and feel connected to the land, and to each other.”

Following the ceremony, Harry and Edward discussed the significance of the words, actions, and artifacts used in the blessing ceremony. Edward advised that while blessing ceremonies have some common, traditional elements, it is important to recognize that there are also differences, depending on the elder leading the ceremony, and why it’s being conducted.

Harry started by explaining the significance of the image of the White Buffalo on the blanket, upon which the ceremony was conducted. “My grandfather gave me two names – one was White Buffalo,” he said. “The buffalo skull which is traditionally used in ceremonies represents animals living off the land.”



*Harry Janvier (left) & Edward Adby with ceremonial blanket*

Edward added that another important element of the ceremony was the smudging pan. “We used fungus today because it was a traditional land blessing ceremony, and it is of the earth. And the feathers we used to fan the smoke during the smudging represent an eagle.”

Harry placed rocks in the smudging pan during the ceremony, explaining that they are representative of something you can take with you from where ever you visit. “While all living things pass with time, rocks will be around forever.”

“Because the earth will be disturbed, this is an offering for Devon Canada,” added Edward. “These stones were taken from the ground, representing the disturbance that will happen when the Jackfish Project begins – when you take something, you must offer something in return.”

Tobacco was also used as an offering – each of the participants was given tobacco and invited to place it in the fire, while giving thanks – either verbally or in thought – to Mother Earth.

“The tobacco smoke catches in the wind, and carries everywhere – it always goes in the direction of the sun,” said Edward. “When it is offered in a pipe – a very sacred symbol of peace – the pipe smoke takes the words you are speaking to the Creator.”

One of the most significant, visible aspects of the ceremony included four coloured flags.

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## GROUND BLESSING, continued...

“The flags represent different things,” said Edward. “They can represent the seasons of summer, winter, spring and fall, or the north, south, east or west winds. Most importantly, the colours symbolize Mother Earth – green for the land, yellow for the sun, blue for water, and white for the air and clouds. It’s a very important symbol to Aboriginal peoples – the flags are tied to a tree, and left to signify that a ceremony has taken place.”

George Quintal, President of Metis Nation Zone 1, also spoke about the importance of the land, and the significance of the ceremony.

“We need to keep the land for future generations,” said George. “Starting a project with a blessing from the Mother is very important.

It reminds us to respect what we have been given, and also to recognize that the community is being impacted by this development. It is very important to us that the company returns the land to the way they found it.”

Following the Ceremony, everyone returned to the Nakewin Community Centre for refreshments and to recognize the elders and other dignitaries.

“On behalf of Devon, I would like to express sincere gratitude to the Elders and all others who participated in the ceremony,” said Michel Scott.

“The ceremony reaffirms our appreciation for the people and the land. We look forward to continuing to work together to develop our Jackfish Project in a manner which is respectful, and responsive to the needs and concerns of the local communities.”



*Community and Devon at Nakewin Hall following Ground Blessing Ceremony*

## ACCESS PIPELINE

Devon’s experience has shown that control over the timing and cost of infrastructure development is important for ensuring the economic viability of reserves development projects.

We are participating in the evaluation phase of the Access Pipeline Project to support Devon’s Jackfish Project, and to provide low-cost transportation services which will allow other operators in the northeast Alberta oil sands corridor to bring bitumen blend production into the Edmonton

marketing hub. Edmonton area pipelines can then move bitumen to export markets in the east, west and south, or bitumen blend could be delivered to local refineries and proposed upgraders.

Devon’s 50 percent interest in the Access Pipeline Project will also provide diluent transportation capability from Edmonton to Jackfish for proprietary Devon diluent, and possible third parties in the surrounding area.

A feasibility study was concluded in 2004 and resulted in Devon’s decision to fund engineering, environmental work and the regulatory application.

Access Pipeline is currently preparing engineering design, cost estimates, and the regulatory application for filing in the First Quarter of 2005. Devon recently approved capital expenditures associated with funding the Access Pipeline.



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